

I have been thinking of writing you for some time but have been so busy that I could not find time to do so. I have been thinking of writing you for some time but have been so busy that I could not find time to do so. I have been thinking of writing you for some time but have been so busy that I could not find time to do so.

November 14th 1862

Dear Girl, I have had no chance to send this off, yet I think I had better write a little more so as to make a sizeable letter of it. There is now a connection made with the Bowling Green and Nashville railroad, by stage back forty miles to Mitchellville, so that we can now send and get mails daily, and the turn out on the railroad, that was blown up by the rebels and stopped communication, will be repaired ^(in a few days) when everything will go on all right.

Yesterday I made a visit to the great city of Nashville, looked over it carefully, and concluded not to buy it, although I picked me out a house to live in, which I think will suit you. Nashville was evidently built when land was very scarce, for the streets are hardly wide enough for two teams to pass and it all looks to me as though they had built a lot of houses and then tumbled them all into a heap, some one end up and some another.

It is an irregular, old, dried up concern, although there were some as fine buildings as I ever saw.

I went up to the state house and went all through it, and it was one grand, strange thing.

It is built of limestone, but of a different quality from anything I have ever seen, being beautifully clouded like marble. Everything about it is of the same material; the partitions are of solid stone from two to four feet thick, and through all the doors and openings, arched, and finely carved.

The main columns were 7 feet in diameter and 25 feet high, all of solid stone. In passing through the different halls and windings, I saw the rooms occupied by the different departments of state, and one attracted my attention in particular, - one the entrance was the word Governor, Miss Speller

Surrounding this building is a wall of stone and dirt to just hide some big piece makers, that his quietly snoozing in the sun, with a guard silently walking to and fro, - I counted in all ten heavy Parrot Siege guns, and two 12 pound howitzers; upon the second balcony all around there is piled a row of cotton bolls, for breast work for sharpshooters, - Down on the banks of the river I saw the old fathers of guns; what it was called or what the weight of shot I shall not pretend to tell, but I could crawl into the mouth without any trouble, and don't know but I could turn round and come out.

We are having to day one of the finest of those fine, warm, smoky days of the Indian Summer

but they are nothing new to us, for the most of our journey has been made in just such weather; we have been particularly favored in that, but we cannot always have it and we will soon have a change, when it will ruin nearly all of the time; There will be the time that will "try men's souls" as well of boots and shoes, as well as the other kind.

We are camped in a beautiful little grove in the bottom of Edgfield, one mile north of Nashville. We landed here, cold, tired, ragged, and one mass of filth and dirt, but now order has come out of chaos and we are blacked, washed, corned, and blisked up generally, which, with some new clothes has brightened us up wonderfully, and our camp is all cleaned up and swept as nice as a parlor. - I have my smock all done and expect to have a pleasant time while we stay here. - Our regiment ^{is} sadly decimated, there were only three hundred & fifty men on this morning's report fit for duty, the remainder are sick, either in camp, as in the hospitals all along the road from Louisville to this place. Notwithstanding our great loss at the battle, our greatest enemy has been sickness. - Oh! this was a sad thing. - We started out with 850 stout able bodied men, it is now only three months

and two thirds of them are either lying under
the sad or in the hospital which is about
the same thing, for if they do not get there
now, they will contract diseases which will
send them home with poor broken down
constitutions

I have received no letter from home yet. - I wish
they would write to me, - I have written one
to them shall write again to morrow and
also to Post, I know he is looking for one every day
- by the way our Brigade commander name is
P Sidney Post, I do not know what relation
he is to our old friend, but suppose him to be a
near one, judging from his characteristics, one in
particular, in which he is said to be a good
judge of Whiskey

Will I have written a pretty lengthy letter to
you this time, - you ought to send me three or
four of your kind of letters for it, but write when
you can, but don't write when you are so much
as lonesome, Make Carpenter write, he must not
expect me to write every afternoon, for I suppose you
read the most of these letters to him which must
answer for the whole family, little Johnny included - how
is it has Carpenter raised on the price Johnny got his
welled thing worth five dollars, but I always thought he
would take less than that
if you can care for yours self, while I am
at you can care for yours self, while I am
gone, this time

Orlando G. Sargent
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